

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** LOCK-UP (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Urquhart Street rear 37 Glendinning Street BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 150

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Balmoral

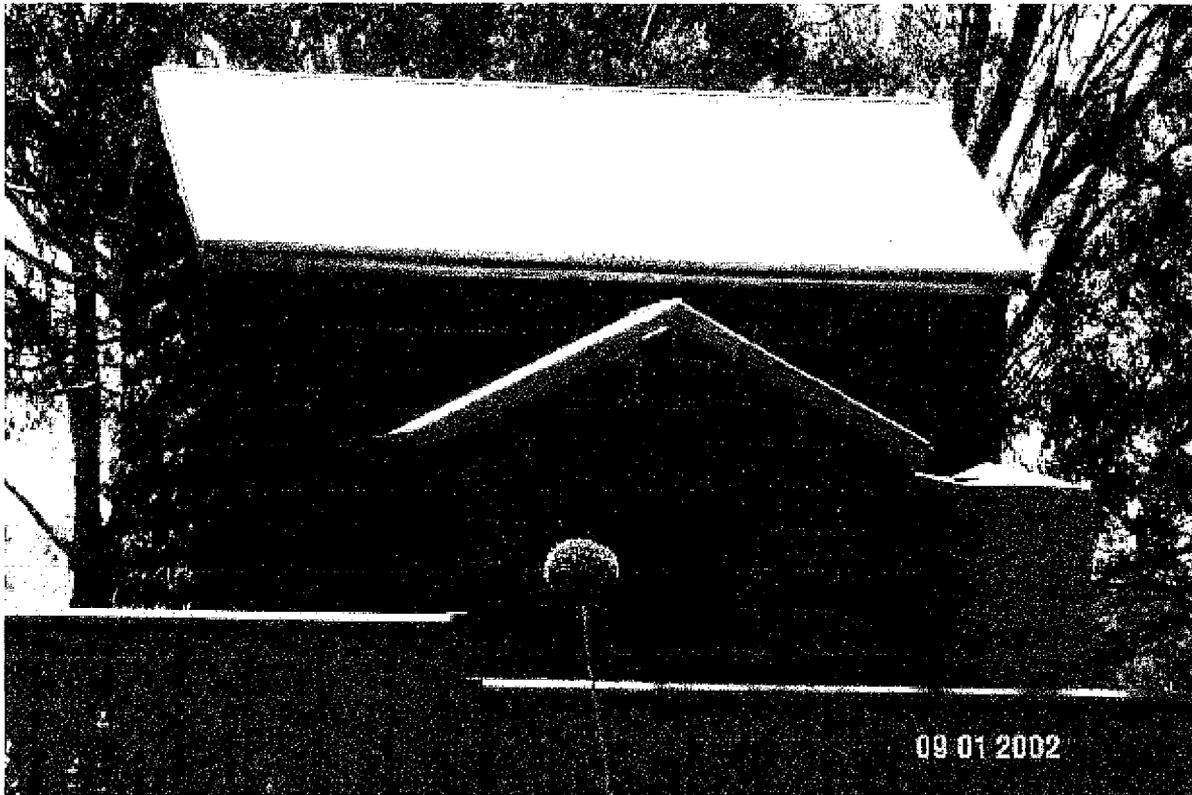
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** prev. 1- SECTION: 3  
4

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 388J 10; VicRoads 227 T3; located in Glendinning Street on the south-east side of Balmoral adjacent to the former Courthouse. Police Reserve, Gaz. 72.2007

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Lock up (former), Urquart Street, Balmoral. Front view

**Image Date:** 09/01/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the lock up building and the whole of the reserve, but not police station building.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The lock-up is a typical single storey building with a small porch and two cells. The walls are constructed from coursed rock-faced ironstone. The roof is corrugated iron. The doors are massively constructed plank and brace with forged ironmongery. The cells are lit and ventilated by small barred windows at a high level and there appears to be a ventilation system lower in the walls. The lock-up is sited immediately behind the modern police station, adjacent to the former courthouse and to the east of the original police station and residence.

The Police Station is a post-World War Two replacement of the former. It is a simple single storey timber building of standard design.

## HISTORY:

The land on which the Police Station, Court house and former lock-up now stand is now described on Township Maps as a 'Police Reserve' (Department of Lands and Survey, 1958). However, the earliest survey maps of the Township of Balmoral, dating from between 1855 and 1860 note a 'Police Paddock Reserve' on the north side of Mather's Creek, to the west of the Glenelg River. It is likely that the current 'Police Reserve' was Gazetted in the 1860s, when the first which is now known as the Police Reserve does not appear as a is described as 2 acres of Police Reserve in the Parish Plan, was probably reserved in the earliest survey for the township of Balmoral in the 1840s. However, the township plan of Balmoral in 1860 shows that the land which is now the Police Reserve was at that time four separate allotments 1, 2, 3 & 4 of section 3. This indicates that the Police Reserve was not created until after 1860, probably at the same time as the first Policeman was appointed. It is possible that this was Isaac Gelston Gray, a police officer who was appointed to Balmoral in February 1860.

Gray was born in 1834 in Belfast County Down, Ireland, to a watchmaker and jeweller, William Gray and his wife Marion. Gray was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary until he emigrated, together with his brothers Archibald and James in 1857. On arrival in Melbourne, Gray joined the Victorian Police, and was appointed as a mounted constable on 11 March 1858.

Gray served as a mounted constable with the gold escort between Ballarat and Geelong from 1858 until he was injured in an accident at Meredith in July 1859 when his horse fell on him. After recovering from this accident, Gray served for a short time as a mounted policeman at Portland, and was then transferred to Balmoral, where he took up duties in February 1860. Shortly after his arrival, Gray met and married Catherine Scott, the daughter of a local contractor and former overseer of Gringegalgona, William John Scott.

Gray and his new bride were transferred to Coleraine in November 1860, where he was appointed the first policeman to serve the town. The Coleraine Albion reported that the appointment of 'such a constable must be the greatest possible boon to our rising population; and under his active supervision, we will hope to see crime in this locality speedily diminish' (CA 6/11/1860). Gray resigned from the Police Force when he purchased the Black Horse Inn in December 1865.

It is not known who the other Police in the area were, but in 1875, Victorian Mounted Policeman Gorman was stationed at Balmoral (HS n.d). Rogers (25) remembers the tale of Constable Gorman trying to catch those who were stealing black wattle bark from Crown Land in the wattle-stripping frenzy of the late 1880s. "Constable Gorman was on the lookout for poachers of Government Bark. He eventually caught Robert Gillies and James Green with a couple of tons of bark which he promptly confiscated. Apart from fining the offenders the off Government sold the seized bark for five or six pounds per ton. Another story of Constable Gorman and wattle...Gorman knew that Harry Snell was stealing wattle bark from the Crown Lands but he was difficult to catch. One day Constable Gorman tied his horse to a young wattle and quietly walked further on with the intention of catching Snell in the act. When he returned to his horse after a fruitless search, he found that Snell had just stripped the bark from the tree to which Gorman's horse was tied and had disappeared bark and all"

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(ibid.). The Court House dates from the late 1870s, but it is likely that the bluestone lock up dates from earlier than this. The lock up was certainly built by 1864, when Balmoral held the hosted the first Wimmera and Upper Glenelg Pastoral Association Show. John Shanks Jenkins who wrote an article reporting on the show noted that "To the credit of the Balmoralites be it stated it was patronised by few other than loafers and Blackfellows...The cowardly and unmanly attempt on the part of more than one white fellow to have a fight with the poor drunken aborigines was not more distasteful to them than the other of their colour who were urging them on. The police, in the end, stopped these proceedings to a considerable extent by taking some of the Blackfellows off to the lock up"(Jenkins, in Rogers, 42). Other identical lock up buildings in Cavendish and Dunkeld were built in the mid 1860s. The contractor and architect is not known.

The lock-up was probably used as a holding room for those about to face court on charges, as well as for those who had committed crime. During the Shearing Strikes in the area in the early 1890s, there was a sudden increase in the reported crime and larikinsim in the township, attributed to the political tensions and the absence of police, who had been called to Melbourne to assist with striking waterside workers, ships crews, miners and slaughtermen (Rogers, 25). It was reported that during this time "Fleeces of wool were stolen from the Fulham shed and also from Mr. R. Johnson's woolshed at Telangatuk.. The gates of the Western Hotel were taken off their hinges, a number of pot plants in the yard were destroyed, and a coach owned by the Western Staging Co. was taken out of its shed and run down the hill into the Glenelg River where it was found stuck fast in mud" (ibid., 33).

The lock up was used to hold prisoners for many years, although the exact date when it stopped functioning is not known. For many years it was used by the Balmoral Historical Society, and in 1999, it was went to auction.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme: 7 Governing

7.6 Administering Australia

7.6.3 Policing Australia

7.6.4 Dispensing justice

7.6.5 Incarcerating people

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The lock-up at 6-7 Glendinning Street, Balmoral is a single storey symmetrical stone building. The roof is a simple gable. It has a porch with an iron bar door and two cells each with heavy timber doors. The walls incorporate a ventilation system but light is provided only by small barred windows high in the wall. The design is standard for the Public works Department and identical to the lock-ups at Dunkeld and Cavendish. It is part of a complex of other police and judicial buildings. The building is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The former lock-up at 6-7 Glendinning Street, Balmoral is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Balmoral lock-up is of historical significance for its long association with the enforcement of law

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and order in both the township and surrounding area. It is of further historical importance for its association with many important events which ended in the incarceration of prisoners, such as the shearing strikes of the 1890s. The lock up is important for demonstrating a previous local practice of incarcerating prisoners in local lockups, rather than having them serve sentences in large prisons. The former lock up is of architectural significance for its strong, simple purposeful design and its comparative value with other identical lock-ups.

## COMPARISON:

091 Lock-up (Former) cnr Parker and Templeton Streets, Dunkeld  
151 Police Station, Lock up and residence, cnr Riley and Scott Sts, Cavendish

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

09-Jan-02

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	'Historical Jail to go to auction' in Hamilton Spectator (n.d)	1999	
	Coleraine Albion 06/11/1860	1860	unk.
Bruce Trethowan	The Public Works Department 1851 - 1900 An Architectural History, Research Report	1976	
David Saunders	Historic Buildings of Victoria	1966	205
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Balmoral, Parish of Balmoral, County of Dundas	1958	
Jack Rogers	Balmoral	n.d	25,44